

New Guinea  
January 15, 1945

My darling Mama:

The typewriter wouldn't work so my failing penmanship will have to do. Febber & Mosley are on the radio and mosquitoes buzz back and forth – with these three distractions I sit to write

I've just been going over an inventory of our air corps ammo, preparatory to adjusting figures on our stock reload. We have about 2000 more 20 lb. fragmentation bombs than we had on the books - Lord, our bookkeeping is a joke; were carrying 147,000 rounds of 20mm ammo that we had previously issued – and so it goes – Base ordinance calls up and we just lie and equivocate and stall out of it – we are of the opinion that we are of shock troop D-Dog variety troops to whom the details of U.S.A.S.O.S. bases are [illegible]

Balling has a bad habit of not pinning anyone down to a specific job & as in the case of our book keeping during the last 3 months no one officer has been responsible; then too he very glibly juggles figures around and, then when our hand is called, wants to know what happened

I am in a glowing good humor tonight and have been all day. Clifton Faddiman is conducting a skip over the radio – based I think on "Time for Decision" & Lippman's war aims. The radio Harold gave us is better than anything I've ever heard. We leave it on at night when we go to bed and have the charge of quarters turn it off around 12pm [sic] – We have had plenty to drink lately – two bottles of beer apiece a day except for 3 or 4 days - the whisky which I brought back - and yesterday I got a quart of G.I. alcohol from a Dentist whom I met on leave – When we came in at lunch we either drink a beer or a small drink of whisky as mix a canteen cup of alcohol & either apple juice or grapefruit juice - then we repeat before supper – the total consumed being very little but furnishing us with good appetites – I've smoke very few cigarettes since I've returned; have 3 boxes of Christmas cigars & smoke one after each meal & a pipe at night I wear my 7-shirts in the evening.

Two letters from you today; one dated Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> & the other one Jan 5<sup>th</sup>. You mentioned in the letter not having heard from me since the 17<sup>th</sup>. Glad to hear that Harold got home alright – Despite his abruptness I believe I prefer him to Herbert. I certainly hope that he doesn't have to return overseas – Well the radio skit is protracting a modern American family being listed in Well's and Lyman's book – The average family doesn't care a damned about his books so why all the bull – At present I am of the opinion which you have half at times - that is that there's no use in trying to establish a world peace plane - of course the only thing about it is that we must do that - we can't have another war in 30 years; the world can't stand it – but then we could never to the condition of Medieval Europe & gradually grow accustomed to it – Mother how do you suppose America could retrain Russia; do you know of anyway in the world we could except by using force which would be doubtful in its effect.

We are all terribly elated over recent war news - 30 miles inland in Luzon and still no determined opposition. There is some mention of the Japs withdrawing to the mts. On either side of the plane with the purpose of attacking our supply lines. Surely, they will make a stand in front of Mainka; something radical is wrong with them; something must have happened without a doubt though things are more heartening that they've been in a long time

Mother I never did learn what Theatre Red [illegible] was on. Did he fly a bomber or (how long has he been missing) a fighter – Bauther must not have contacted you at all. I am certainly glad that you were so pleased with your present; your writing so gratefully about it make me feel better than did all of the Christmas packages I received. Which reminds me - the hot sauce & pepper sauce & red pepper is darned nice to have. You have no idea how it tastes up our meals – The only thing it isn't lasting very long. I had rather you send me such as that rather than candy - The latter became too much in this climate, it becomes unappetizing unless one eats it soon. For my birthday I would like a pair of leather moccasins to wear in the evenings – They are pretty handy & I like to change from my G.I. shoes afterward – Mama our shower is wonderful. I prefer it to any bath tub in the world; it is only fifteen feet from the rear of our quarters - we are to start building [illegible] a new hut within the next few days – shall enclose it with screen wire & hence to do away with mosquito nets which are a other

I'm reading two books at once; Pageant of the Popes & the Autobiography of Mr. Tutt which Leo & Anna Mae sent. I loaned a Colonel "the Bounty Trilogy" - I shall see that I get it back Mama, who in the Hell is Mr. Tutt – Is he Arthur Train? I thought that the entire thing was fiction, but the biography isn't. It is very interesting

I have been dreaming at length every night since I've been back. Had only two nightmares during the 44 days I was gone on leave and home since I've been back.

Mother you need have no fear about my health – It is perfect. I eat more than any of the other officers – I am certainly under no mental strain & our work is very light right now. In fact for one overseas I have an easy life I wouldn't want to be less busy than I am (excepting the few days of [illegible] last Spring, I have never felt the least bit ill – I am alas)

Pin Up has become a very cute dog & I've developed quite an affection for her – am sure we will take her with us if we ever leave Guinea – Sunday night while I was listening, she kept jumping up on me & biting – upon tiring of that she would walk around awhile & then return & commence again – she runs at us and jumps 3 feet in the air & if we don't catch her she falls awkwardly on her back and looks very surprised.

There are 16 colored Red Cross workers here and the men are dating them out to [illegible phrase]. The negro offenders give them tales of competition. I would like to drop in on their parties some night. They are all snap shot crazy & get each other's girls & wives to send them their pictures – with everyone's permissions. Lots of our men have been sent back to the states because of health – around 18 men – out of 180 men that is pretty steep – Mental condition was back either directly or indirectly of it all – We sent 4 while I was on leave & of late (since then) scores of them are developing divers complaint – One more, Willie Green who has been with the company since it was activated came in tonight, and told Lou that he just happened to think that he was married to two women – Did I tell you that they refer to us among themselves as "Pinks" they, themselves they say are "Chocolate Brown" They pride themselves on being sexually stronger than white men.

My footlocker will show up someday; none of ours have gathered back; there is nothing in mine. I had a pleasant letter from Mrs. [illegible] today. I must write Maggie Mooney. She was 81 years old on either Christmas or Christmas Eve

Will you sweet sweet person [illegible] I will close – I love no one but you

Your loving sonny,

John Harrod

P.S. Howdy Pa Ed. – Am a writin' ye some man to man